

Andrew Jackson, June 7, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>JACKSON'S WILL. 1

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Hermitage, June 7, 1843.

In the name of God Amen, I Andrew Jackson Senr. being of Sound mind memory and understanding, and impressed with the great uncertainty of life, and the certainty of death, and being desirous to dispose of my temporal affairs, so that after my death no contention may arise relative to the same. And whereas since executing my will of the 30th of September, 1833 my Estate has become greatly involved by my liabilities for the debts of my well beloved and adopted Son Andrew Jackson Jnr which makes it necessary to alter the same, Therefore I Andrew Jackson Senr of the County of Davidson and State of Tennessee do make, ordain publish and declare this my last Will and Testament, revoking all other wills by me heretofore made,

First, I bequeath my body to the dust whence it comes, and my soul to God who gave it, hoping for a happy immortality, through the atoning merits of our Lord Jesus Christ th[e] saviour of the world. My desire is that my body be buried by the side of my dear departed wife in the garden of the Hermitage in the vault prepared in the garden, and all expenses paid by my Executor hereafter named.

Secondly, that all my just debts be paid out of my personal and real estate by my Executor, for which purpose to meet the debt my good friends Genl. J B Plauché and Co of New Orleans for the sum of six thousand dollars with the interest accruing thereon loaned to me to meet the debt due by A Jackson Junr for the purchase of the plantation

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from Hiram G Runnels lying on the East bank of the Mississippi River, in the State of Mississippi. Also a debt due by me of ten thousand dollars borrowed of my friends Blair and Rives, of the city of Washington District of Columbia with the Interest accruing thereon, being applied to 0245 221 the payment of the land bought of Hiram G Runnels as aforesaid, and for the faithful payment of the aforesaid recited debts, I hereby bequeath all my Real and Personal estate.

After these debts are fully paid thereby, I give and bequeath to my adopted son Andrew Jackson Junr, the tract of Land whereon I now live known by the Hermitage tract with its butts and boundaries, with all its appendages of the three lots of Land bought of Samuel Donelson Thomas J Donelson, and Alexander Donelson, Sons and Heirs of Severn Donelson deceased, all adjoining the Hermitage tract, agreeable to their Butts and boundaries with all the appertenances thereto belonging or in any wise apurtaining, with all my negroes that I may die possessed of with the exceptions hereafter named with all their increase after the before recited debts are fully paid, with all the Household furniture farming tools, Stock of all kind, both on the Hermitage tract farm as well as those on the Mississippi plantation to him and his heirs forever. The true intent and meaning of this my last Will and Testament is that all my Estate real personal and mixed, are hereby first pledged for the payment of the above recited debts and Interest, and when they are fully paid, the residue of all my Estate, real personal and mixed are hereby bequeathed to my adopted Son A Jackson Junr. with the exception hereafter named, to him and his heirs forever.

Fourth, Whereas I have heretofore by conveyance, deposited with my beloved daughter Sarah Jackson wife of my adopted Son A Jackson Junr. given to my beloved Grand Daughter, Rachel Jackson, daughter of A Jackson Junr. and Sarah his wife several negroes therein described which I hereby confirm, I give and bequeath to my Beloved Grand son Andrew Jackson, son of A Jackson Jnr. and Sarah his Wife, a Negro boy named Ned son of Blacksmith Aaron and Hannah his wife, to him and his heirs forever.

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Fifth I give and bequeath to my Beloved little Grand Son Samuel Jackson, son of A. Jackson Junr and his much Beloved wife Sarah one negro boy named Davy or George, Son of Squire and his wife Giney to him and his heirs forever.

Sixth, To my beloved and affectionate daughter Sarah Jackson wife of my adopted and well Beloved Son A Jackson Junr I hereby recognise by this bequest, the gift I made on her marriage of the negro girl Gracy which I bought for her, and gave her to my daughter Sarah, as her maid and seamstress, with her increase, with my House servant Hannah, and her two daughters, Charlotte and Mary, to be hers and her heirs forever. This gift and bequest, is made for my great affection for her, as a memento of her uniform attention to me and kindness on all occasions, and particularly when worn down with sickness pain and debility, she has been more than a daughter to me and I hope she never will be disturbed in the enjoyment of this gift and bequest by any one.

Seventh, I bequeath to my well beloved Nephew Andrew J Donelson, Son of Samuel Donelson deceased, the elegant sword presented to me by the state of Tennessee, with this injunction that he fail not to use it when necessary in support and protection of our glorious Union, and for the 0246 222 protection of the Constitutional rights of our beloved country should they be assailed by foreign enemies or domestic traitors. This from the great change in my worldly affairs of late is with my blessing all I can bequeath him, doing justice to those creditors to whom I am responsible. This bequest is made as a memento of my high regard affection and esteem I bear for him as a high minded, honest, and honorable man.

Eighthly, To my Grand Nephew Andrew Jackson Coffee I bequeath the elegant sword presented to me by the rifle company of New Orleans, Commanded by Capt. Beal, as a memento of my regard, and to bring to his recollection the gallant services of his deceased Father Genl. John Coffee in the late Indian and British wars, under my command and his gallant conduct in defence of New Orleans in 1814 and 1815, with this injunction, that he wield it in the protection of the rights secured to the American citizens under our glorious

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constitution against all invaders whether foreign foes, or intestine traitors. I bequeath to my beloved Grand son Andrew Jackson, son of A Jackson Junr. and Sarah his wife, the sword presented to me by the Citizens of Philadelphia, with this Injunction, that he will always use it in defence of the constitution and our glorious Union and the perpetuation of our republican system, remembering the motto "draw me not without occasion nor sheath me without honor". The pistols of Genl Lafayette which were presented by him to Genl. George Washington, and by Col Wm Robertson presented to me, I bequeath to George Washington Lafayette as a memento of the illustrious personages thro whose hands they have passed, his Father, and the Father of his country. The Gold box presented to me by the Corporation of the City of New York, the large Silver vase presented by the Ladies of Charleston, South Carolina, my native State, with the large Picture representing the unfurling of the American banner presented to me by the citizens of South Carolina when it was refused to be accepted by the United States Senate, I leave in trust to my Son A Jackson Junr with directions that should our happy country not be blessed with peace, an event not always to be expected, he will at the close of the war, or end of the conflict present each of said articles of inestimable value, to that patriot residing in the city or state from which they were presented, who shall be adjudged by his countrymen or the Ladies to have been the most valient in defence of his country, and our countrys rights. The pocket spy Glass which was used by Genl. Washington during the revolutionary war, and presented to me by Mr. Custus having been burned with my dwelling house, the Hermitage, with many other invaluable articles I can make no disposition of them.

As a memento of my high regard for Genl. Robert Armstrong, as a gentleman, patriot and Soldier, as well as for his meritorious military services under my command during the late British and Indian wars, and remembering the gallant bearing of him and his gallant little band at Enotichopco creek when falling desperately wounded, he called out, my brave fellows some may fall but save the cannon, as a memento of all these things, I give and bequeath to him, my case of pistols and sword, worn by me throughout my military career,

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well satisfied that in his 0247 223 hands they will never be disgraced, that they will never be used or drawn without occasion, nor sheathed but with honor,

Lastly, I leave to my Beloved Son all my walking canes and other relics, to be distributed among my young relatives (name sakes), first to my much esteemed namesake Andrew J Donelson son of my esteemed nephew A J Donelson, his first choice and then to be distributed, as A Jackson Junr. may think proper, Lastly I appoint my adopted son Andrew Jackson Junr. my whole and sole Executor to this my last will and Testament, and direct that no security be required of him for the faithful execution and discharge of the trust hereby reposed in him. In testimony whereof, I have this 7th day of June one thousand eight hundred and forty three, here unto set my hand and affixed my seal, hereby revoking all Wills heretofore made by me and in the presence of

Marion Adams

Elizabeth D Love

Thomas J Donelson

Richard Smith

R Armstrong.